IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 31 as

follows:

Still to enhance the comfort of the patient, it is disclosed

in patent US5,492,113 and US5,970,975 an apparatus wherein several

cycles of ramp are provided on patient's conscious demand. The

cycles actuated after the first cycle rise faster in pressure. All

those ramps are predetermined in shape and duration. The patient

can also select a fastest shape of ramp or select one special shape

in order to fall asleep more easily. This selection being made

among different predetermined shapes of ramp. However, such

devices require from the patient a minimum of consciousness to

activate the ramp cycles. This is not really very efficient to

fall asleep and it is not possible when the patient ~~as~~ has fallen

asleep.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19 as

follows:

The invention thus concerns an apparatus to assist a ~~patient~~

patient's respiration by delivering air to a patient ~~trough~~ through

a mask, comprising:

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29 as follows:

The apparatus as represented in figure 1 comprises a blower 4 to provide the patient with air. This blower is connected to a tube 8 on a first extremity, the second extremity being connected to the mask 20 wherein the patient breathes. A control unit 2 provides the ~~blower 10~~ blower 4 with the electrical control required to enable the blower to function in order to set a given pressure at the patient's mask or blower's outlet. This pressure could be measured by a pressure transducer 6 at the mask level or at the tube extremity, which is connected to the mask. A ramp module 10 is connected to the control unit 2 and to the pressure transducer 6. The ramp module provides the control unit 2 with the pressure at the patient's mask and with the pressure to settle at the patient's mask at the starting of the apparatus 1 functioning. During the treatment the control unit 2 is able to detect breathing events according to the pressure sensor 6 or any other way to evaluate or measure the patient's airflow. Such detection can be given by airflow sensors which provide the control unit with pressure parameters, the control units being thus able to detect that an event is occurring.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13 as follows:

The apparatus according to the present invention is able to modulate the rise in pressure during one single ramp period, which is impossible to perform for apparatus of prior art. The apparatus comprises a ramp module 10 connected to the control unit 2 in order to provide the control unit with the value of pressure P_M to settle at the patient's mask, so that when said apparatus starts functioning, the pressure progressively rises until the pressure of treatment P_T. The apparatus comprises a comparator which is not represented in ~~figure1~~ <u>figure 1</u> and that can be comprised in the control unit 2. This comparator is connected to the ramp module 10. The apparatus comprise also at least one means for detecting the patients breathing parameters and sending them to said comparator, in order that in response to said breathing parameters, the comparator is able ~~according~~ to determine that an event occurs in patient breathing and to send the corresponding data to the ramp module which provide the control unit 2 with a value of pressure P_M that will speed up in respect of the time, so that the rise of pressure at patient's mask is accelerated.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24 as

follows:

When a patient is asleep his respiration becomes stable, this

is used to detect the instant when the patient falls asleep.

Another way to detect when the patient falls asleep is to detect

the drop of frequency between the awake rate breathing and the

awake breathing. As represented in figure 4 and according to a

preferential implementation, the control unit 2 transmits <u>to</u> the

ramp module an output average pressure value P_M which is the

pressure value required to <u>be delivered to the</u> patient's mask.

When the patient is about to fall asleep, his respiration becomes

stable. In that case the P_M value is increased, preferentially as

a linear function of time, the proportional coefficient being K_{RP}.

If the pressure value P_M is inferior to the safety ramp ~~pressure P_{SR}~~

<u>pressure S_{RP}</u>, the pressure P_M is set to the value of the safety ramp

~~pressure P_{SR}~~ <u>pressure S_{RP}</u>, which is in a preferential implementation

calculated by the ~~module ramp~~ <u>ramp module</u> 10 by multiplying the

time spent from the beginning of the ramp routine to the present

time by the coefficient K_{SP}. When the pressure value P_M equals or

is superior to the treatment pressure P_T, the P_M pressure is

maintained equal to the treatment pressure value P_T. On the

contrary the control unit 2 checks again if the respiration is stable. This shows that until the patient falls asleep the P_M value will not be superior to the treatment pressure P_T, and will only ~~equals~~ <u>equal</u> it when the patient falls asleep or when the safety ramp reaches the treatment pressure value. This also shows that during the ramp period, if the respiration is stable, the air provided can rise faster than the safety ramp. In that case, the coefficient K_{RP} will be higher than the coefficient K_{SP}. The ramp module will thus enable ~~to~~ the control unit to accelerate the rise in pressure when the patients fall asleep and when no events are detected.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21 as follows:

~~An other~~ <u>Another</u> implementation of the apparatus according to the present invention is that when the control unit detects an ~~an~~ event in patients breathing that shows an asleep ~~state ,~~ <u>state,</u> the control unit will provide the ramp module 10 with the information. The ramp module will thus increase again the rise in pressure.